PROPOSED PLAN FOR SITE 14 NAS WHITING FIELD FL

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PROPOSED PLAN

August 2006

Site 14, Short-Term Sanitary Landfill
Surface and Subsurface Soil

The Department of Defense and the Navy have completed the investigation of surface and subsurface soil at Naval Air Station Whiting Field Site 14, Short-Term Sanitary Landfill. The site history and current conditions indicate no treatment or containment is necessary. Unrestricted access and unlimited exposure to surface and subsurface soils is allowed for both residential and nonresidential use.

In accordance with the National Contingency Plan (NCP) §300.430(f) as well as Section 117(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), this document summarizes the Navy's proposal for No Action at Site 14 (Short-Term Sanitary Landfill) at NAS Whiting Field.

Comments

The Navy will be accepting written comments (see insert) from 15 August through 14 September, 2006. The comment period includes an opportunity for a public meeting where the Navy would present more detailed site information. A meeting will be held if there is a request from members of the public before the end of the comment period.

All comments will be considered before a final decision is reached.

What's Inside

The Proposal

In accordance with the National Contingency Plan (NCP) §300.430(f) as well as Section 117(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), this document identifies the preferred alternative to address surface and subsurface soils at Site 14, Short-Term Sanitary Landfill, at Naval Air Station (NAS) Whiting Field (Figure 1). Groundwater at Site 14 is being handled separately as part of the NAS Whiting Field basewide groundwater study (a.k.a. Site 40).

This proposal was developed by the Navy, the lead agency, with approval from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), a support agency, and concurrence from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), a support agency.

The proposed remedy for Site 14 is No Action (NA) for surface and subsurface soils. Under this proposed remedy, no treatment or containment will be necessary and unrestricted access and unlimited exposure to surface and subsurface soils at Site 14 is allowed for both residential and nonresidential use. The current and potential future land use at Site 14 is non-residential/ recreational.

The proposed plan is a document intended to fulfill the public participation requirements under CERCLA and the NCP with specific purposes as follows: provide basic background information; identify the preferred alternative for remedial action at the site and explain the reasons for the preference; solicit public review and comment on the remedy; and provide information on how the public can be involved in the remedy selection process.

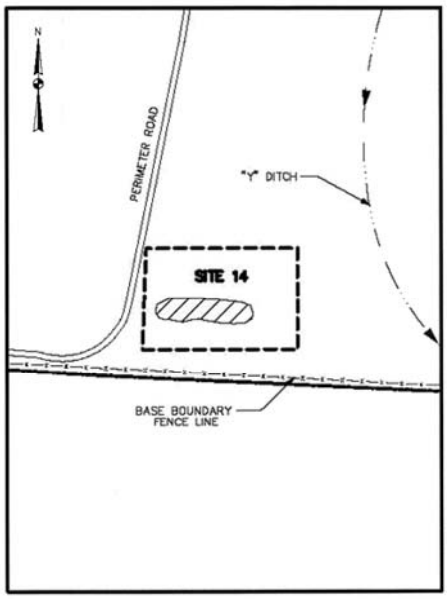


Figure 1. Site 14 Location Map

The NAS Whiting Field Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) has provided input into the development of the proposed remedy.

The Navy, USEPA, and FDEP will select a final response action for surface and subsurface soil at Site 14 after the public comment period has ended and all written comments received have been evaluated. The final response action will be selected to ensure adequate protection of human health and the environment and will be detailed in a Record of Decision (ROD) document for the site. This document will be published as a permanent part of the administrative record for NAS Whiting Field.

This Proposed Plan summarizes information found in greater detail in the ***Remedial Investigation (RI) Report Site 14, Short-Term Sanitary Landfill***; the ***Feasibility Study (FS) for Site 14, Short-Term Sanitary Landfill;*** the ***Feasibility Study Addendum (FSA) for Site 14, Short-Term Sanitary Landfill, Surface and Subsurface Soil***; and other site documents. These materials are available for review at the **NAS Whiting Field Information Repository, West Florida Regional Library, Milton Branch, 805 Alabama Street, Milton, Florida, 32570; (850) 623-5565.**

Site History

Location: Site 14 is approximately 3 acres in size and is located along the southeastern facility boundary of NAS Whiting Field east of Perimeter Road (Figure 1). The site is rectangular in shape and oriented east to west.

Operational and Waste Disposal History: Site 14 is one of six sites (Sites 9 through Site 14) comprising the area known as the Southeast Disposal Area.

Site 14 was the primary sanitary landfill at NAS Whiting Field for 6 to 9 months during the latter part of 1978 and the early part of 1979. Landfilling operations ceased in this area in early 1979 because the high clay content of the soil resulted in the ponding of rainwater throughout the site. The disposal area was subsequently covered with soil and pine trees were planted.

Current Conditions: At this time, Site 14 consists of vacant, unused land vegetated with native grasses and scrub oak interspersed between rows of planted pine trees. The central area has less dense vegetative cover revealing small areas of exposed surface soils. There are currently no buildings at Site 14.

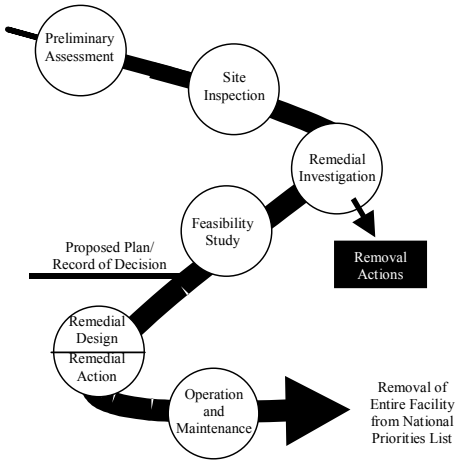
Surface drainage from Site 14 is toward an unlined, vegetated "Y" ditch, which is located approximately 400 feet east of the site. The "Y" ditch drains east toward Big Coldwater Creek which is located 1.8 miles east the site.

Environmental History

Regulatory Framework

NAS Whiting Field was placed on the USEPA National Priorities List (NPL) for environmental study and cleanup in June 1994.

Environmental work at Site 14 is part of the ongoing program at NAS Whiting Field. This is a Department of Defense program to investigate and, if necessary, clean up conditions related to suspected past releases of hazardous materials at military facilities. The program complies with the CERCLA and other applicable Florida and Federal environmental regulations, and is typically performed in the following stages:



Investigation Activities

The RI at Site 14 was conducted in phases from 1992 through 1995. Fieldwork included a range of environmental studies to collect the data needed to determine the presence, nature, and extent of contamination. The field activities and their objectives included the following:

Surface Soil Sampling: conducted to determine surface soil characteristics and contaminant concentrations by laboratory chemical analysis.

Subsurface Soil Sampling: conducted to determine subsurface soil characteristics and contaminant concentrations by laboratory chemical analysis.

Investigation Findings

The RI Report provided an understanding of the soil environmental conditions at Site 14. Groundwater conditions at Site 14 will be investigated and evaluated separately in the basewide groundwater study (Site 40). After the RI Report was completed in 1999, a FS was conducted in 2001 to identify the best approach to address the soil contamination at the site.

Since this time, the following site conditions changed:

- Arsenic, originally identified in the FS as a constituent of concern (COC), was determined to be naturally occurring at Site 14. Aluminum, iron, manganese, and vanadium were also determined to be naturally occurring at NAS Whiting Field. This was based on additional review of data from the facility and surrounding area.
- Over the course of investigations at this site, the USEPA changed its screening criteria for evaluation of hazardous waste-related sites.

To address these changed site conditions, a FSA was prepared in 2006.

The current findings of soil environmental conditions at the site are summarized below.

General Site Conditions: Surface and subsurface soil is predominantly sand and silt with thin layers of clay. The terrain at the site is relatively flat.

Soil Conditions:

- The constituents detected in surface soils at Site 14 included two volatile organic compounds (VOCs), two semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), 19 inorganic constituents and cyanide. No constituents were detected at concentrations in excess of the direct contact, risk based screening levels in surface soils at Site 14.
- The chemicals detected in subsurface soils at Site 14 included four VOCs, three SVOCs, and 19 inorganic constituents. No chemicals were detected at concentrations in excess of the direct contact, risk based screening levels in subsurface soils at Site 14.

Current and Future Land Uses: The current and future anticipated land use at Site 14 is non-residential/recreational.

Risk Assessment Findings: The data collected during the RI is used in preparing two risk assessments: the HHRA and the ecological risk assessment, to determine if risks to human health or the environment are present. Following all risk assessment calculations, no COCs were identified in surface or subsurface soils at Site 14 above FDEP or USEPA target levels for protection of human health and the environment.

Human Health Risks: The HHRA evaluates the risk associated with cancer-causing (carcinogenic) constituents as well as those constituents associated with non-cancer adverse health effects. Based on the findings of the HHRA, no unacceptable carcinogenic risk has been identified for the hypothetical future resident exposed to surface and subsurface soil at Site 14.

For non-cancer-causing constituents, the measure of the likelihood of adverse effects occurring in humans is called the Hazard Index (HI). An HI greater than 1.0 suggests adverse effects are possible. At Site 14 the total HI for the hypothetical future resident is less than 1.0 indicating no unacceptable non-cancer adverse health effects have been identified for exposure to surface and subsurface soil at Site 14.

Ecological Risks: The quantity of the terrestrial habitat at Site 14 is limited. The site is currently vacant, unused land comprised of native grasses and

Comments

For your convenience a public comment form is included with this proposed plan. Written comments and requests for more information or a public meeting must be mailed (postmarked) by September 14, 2006.

Environmental History

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scrub oak vegetative cover interspersed between pine trees with exposed soil in the central area.

No unacceptable ecological risks have been identified for surface or subsurface soil at Site 14.

It is the lead agency's current judgment that the preferred alternative identified in this Proposed Plan, or one of the other active measures considered is necessary to protect public health, welfare or the environment from actual or threatened releases of hazardous substances into the environment.

Basis for the Proposal

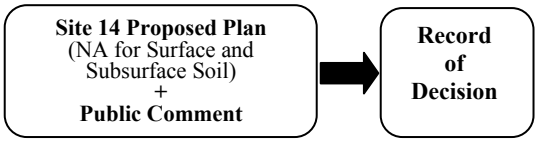
Based on the RI, FS, FSA, and review of inorganic data from the facility, the Navy is proposing NA for surface and subsurface soil at Site 14. Under this action, no treatment or containment is deemed necessary. Unrestricted access and unlimited exposure to surface and subsurface soils is allowed for residential and nonresidential uses.

The USEPA and FDEP concur with the NA for surface and subsurface soil recommendation at Site 14. Community acceptance of the proposed remedial action is the next step. Once the proposal is approved, the ROD will be signed by the Navy and USEPA with concurrence by FDEP. This document will establish the NA for surface and subsurface soil decision at Site 14. No other soil cleanup measures at Site 14 will be proposed after approval of the selected remedial action.

Public Involvement

The Navy has established an active outreach program to ensure community involvement in environmental activities at Site 14 and throughout NAS Whiting Field. The Navy will be accepting written comments on the proposed Site 14 remedial action from 15 August to 14 September, 2006. Public participation in the selection is encouraged.

Comments can be submitted using the enclosed form. Comments will be summarized and responses provided in the responsiveness summary section of the ROD.



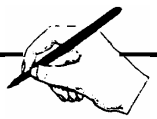
The comment period includes an opportunity for a public meeting where the Navy would present the RI, FS, FSA, and Proposed Plan, answer questions, and receive comments in writing from the public. A public meeting will be held if one is requested by members of the public before the end of the comment period.

The NAS Whiting Field RAB is another method used by the Navy to promote public involvement in the base environmental cleanup program. For example, the RAB has been invited to participate in developing the proposed remedy by reviewing the documents, offering suggestions, and expressing their concerns on the proposed remedial actions. The RAB meets at convenient times and locations to discuss Installation Restoration program status and provide community input into the cleanup process. RAB meetings are open to the public and are advertised in local media.

Technical Presentation at a RAB meeting

A community mailing list is also maintained to distribute updates about the environmental program directly to interested members of the community.

If you need additional information, would like to comment on the proposed remedy or would like to request a public meeting, please contact:



Mr. Ronald Joyner
Public Works Department
NAS Whiting Field
7151 USS WASP Street
Milton, Florida 32570-6159
(850) 623-7181 (Ext. 40)

Glossary (commonly used terms)

Aquifer: a layer of rock, sand, or gravel capable of storing and transmitting water within cracks and pore spaces, or between grains.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA): a Federal law enacted in 1980 and amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) in 1986. CERCLA, administered by the USEPA and commonly known as Superfund, outlines a process to evaluate and remediate, if necessary, hazardous waste conditions that may pose a threat to human health or the environment.

Feasibility Study (FS): an engineering analysis and report identifying and evaluating the most appropriate technical approaches for addressing contamination at a site.

Hazard Index (HI): the measure of the likelihood of non-cancer adverse health effects occurring to humans from exposure to chemical constituents.

Information Repository: a public file containing technical reports, reference documents, and other materials relevant to the site cleanup.

National Priorities List (NPL): the USEPA's list of the most serious uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites identified for possible long-term cleanup under Superfund.

Proposed Plan: a public participation document detailing the preferred response action at a site.

Public Comment Period: a legally required opportunity for the community to provide written and oral comments on a proposed environmental action at a hazardous waste site.

Record of Decision (ROD): a public document explaining selected cleanup alternatives at a site; it is based on information and technical analysis, and on consideration of public comments and concerns. The ROD is issued and signed by the Navy and the USEPA at the completion of a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study and after community acceptance of the Proposed Plan.

Remedial Action: the actual construction or cleanup phase following the selection of cleanup alternatives.

Removal Action: an action taken to address a release or potential release of hazardous substances, which may or may not, pose an immediate danger to public health or the environment.

Remedial Investigation (RI): an in-depth study to determine the nature and extent of contamination and establish cleanup criteria.

Response Action: an action to respond to environmental contamination. There are two types: removal action taken over the short-term to respond quickly to a more immediate threat, and remedial action involving long-term activities for a more permanent cleanup solution.

Responsiveness Summary: a section of the ROD summarizing the public comments received and the responses to the comments.

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB): an advisory group composed of regulatory agency representatives, site personnel, and community volunteers who provide input and promote public involvement in cleanup activities.

Risk Assessment: a study estimating the potential risk from a site to human health and the environment.

Site Inspection: an investigation phase where environmental samples are collected and analyzed to assess the presence of contamination.

Soil Cleanup Target Levels (SCTLs): target concentration levels established by FDEP (Chapter 62-777, F.A.C.) and determined to be protective of human health and the environment.